

**The Department of Early Learning and Washington Tribal Nations
Government to Government Meeting**

**Friday, September 12, 2008, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Tulalip Administration Building**

NOTES

MORNING SESSION

Morning Attendees:

Tribal Leader or Chair or their designated delegate

Mel Sheldon, Chair, Tulalip Tribes
Joseph Pavel, Chair, Skokomish Indian Tribe
Leonard Forsman, Chair, Suquamish Tribe
Liz Mueller, Vice-Chair Tribal Council, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
Marie Zackuse, Vice Chair, Tulalip Tribes
Bernie Thomas, Business Council Member, Lummi Nation
Ted Solomon, Business Council Member, Lummi Nation
Dana Matthews, Samish Tribe, Council Secretary
Marie Riebe, Hoh Tribe, Tribal Council Secretary
Jeromy Sullivan, Council Member, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe
Karen Condon, Business Council Member, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Helen Fenrich, Government Affairs, Tulalip Tribe
Lloyd Commander, Head Start Director, Chehalis Tribe
Laura Waukechon, CDC Manager, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe

State Agency Leader or their designated delegate

Jone Bosworth, Director, Washington Department of Early Learning
Colleen Cawston, IPSS Director, Washington Department of Social and Health Services

Additional Staff in Attendance

Jaclyn Haight, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe
Suzi Wright, Tulalip Tribe
Leslie Eastwood, Samish Indian Nation
Allison Cusick, DEL Partnerships Administrator and Tribal Liaison
Sonali Patel, DEL Senior Policy Advisor
Anna Huntington-Kriska, Skokomish Indian Tribe
Lisa Horn, Suquamish Tribe
Jeanne Dengate, Tulalip Tribe
Tracey Hosselkus, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

NOTES

- *Chairman Leonard Forsman,*
 - provided an overview of the Centennial Accord:
 - shared that the state and tribes work together, have the same values and concerns and figure out the things we agree upon.

- It is important to remember that the Centennial Accord is a national model that the state and tribes can be proud of.
- *Director Jone Bosworth*
 - shared that the vision is on the whole child and the family;
 - stressed the importance of two way communication between the state and tribes,
 - shared that DEL is currently operating under the DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01.
- *Helen Fenrich*
 - shared that our children are our most precious resource
- *Colleen Cawston*
 - spoke about the DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01.
 - The 7.01 policy is for DSHS and pre-dates the Centennial Accord.
 - Indian Policy Advisory Council (IPAC) includes delegates from each of the 29 federally recognized tribes and the six recognized American Indian organizations – many of the delegates represent tribal leadership. IPAC meets quarterly on the second Thursday of the month. There are subcommittees from every administration within DSHS. Liz Mueller, Vice-Chair Tribal Council, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, is the Chair of the Children’s Sub-Committee, which meets monthly.
 - if DEL wants to utilize time on IPAC agenda, DSHS is more than willing to offer that.
 - Lays out from regional to state level and every DSHS region is required to meet with tribes on a regular basis
 - 7.01 plans are completed annually and are due to the appropriate Assistant Secretary prior to going to IPSS Director
 - Communications and consultation policies under the 7.01 have worked out
 - Provided an example of the Suquamish – 7.01 plan, what happens when tribes/IPSS meets. Objectives: to work on, activities, outcomes expected, who’s going to be the lead staff.
- *Liz Mueller*
 - shared a history of what was done using 7.01.
 - Went through a change with Indian Policy - 7.01 plan was only 3 pages – done with leadership of Colleen, made a big difference.
 - Matrix has gone through a lot of changes – great working document. Take things from this so when we have the Centennial Accord
- Tribal leaders and delegates were given the opportunity to make statement and suggestions:
 - *Mel Sheldon* – Here to listen. Thank you to Marie and our staff, and more importantly all of you.
 - *Helen Fenrich* – Communication is huge. We don’t have to do a 7.01 but something similar or an MOE. Speak with a straight tone. Reason why we put the person on here is to keep people accountable. Co-Chair on HRSA IPAC sub-committee. Accountability is really important. Tribes are always left out. Try to get across to the Administration – tribes don’t always get that from the county. Glad that you were willing to come to table with us.
 - *Tracey Hosselkus* – Education Director, supervise Head Start and Child Care program. Currently non-casino tribe; trying to meet all the needs of the children. Do not have any programs aside from child care that serve children under age 3. Expressed need to get in there at birth, but stated there is no funding for that. Thinking about Early Head Start, but there is no space, so tribe is looking at child care for that space. Tribe funds 33% of Head Start program (non-federal share), and

it is hard to meet requirements of Feds. Funding does not meet those needs. Trying to be high-quality. I am here to listen and take information back. Whatever we can do to support.

- *Lloyd Commander* (Umatilla), Chehalis, Head Start Director (Delegate) – Honored to be here. Chehalis tribe is very concerned about early learning. Personally, brought up Early Head Start and Head Start and early learning --- research based are foreign to native child rearing. What are our values? What does it mean to be Chehalis? What does it mean to a lot of these areas that are tied to the land, to the food, etc.? Stated that it is not appropriate to put tribes in the same category as migrant. Have a lot to learn in the areas of government to government. How much would it cost to run our own early learning without any other support? Noted concern for youngest tribal members. Recognizing that Head Start is foreign. Support whatever tribe wants to do as a sovereign tribal government. Other issue --- problems of treaties and relations – should continue to be honored. Funding should continue and should not chip away at our sovereignty. Exciting to be at the table and share our hearts and learn.
- *Liz Mueller* – We don't have an early learning program. One of our issues is our children live about 20 miles west/east of tribe. We use our CCDF funding for children in preschools throughout Jefferson and K'allam County. Happy to see its own department now. This is going to be an improvement. Work on behalf of our children that are scattered through their areas to get their needs met.
- *Bernie Thomas* – Thanked the great Tulalip Tribes for hosting this meeting. Nice to be working with DEL. Education and identity are closely linked – we've been losing our identity through education. Gratifying to know we have an opportunity to regain sovereignty by gathering our children back home. So important to whom we are as a people. Expectation and excitement about this whole area of culturally based education and it's relation to our sovereignty. Making sure that culture is extended through education. Had a Head Start program in 1965. Has Northwest Indian College. Population has grown to 5,000. We have so many insurmountable opportunities --- apply the right mentality and resources to gather all of our family back together.
- *Ted Solomon* – We are tied to the land. All the teachings that go along with it – that's our history. And who knows the history better than ourselves. Taught language at Head Start (HS) for six years. Disconnect is that we teach language in HS, then the children go to public school, and there would be disconnect from our language, from our culture. In our tribal school they get K-12 language. Share concern --- transportation. Families that live outside of a certain radius of our tribe. HS --- 117 enrolled; income eligibility – concern for many of our parents. Having a hard time filling positions with new HS laws for teacher qualifications.
- *Marie Repe* – First meeting with ECE. Concerns: waiting list for native children to go into preschool and Head Start, if they are living away from the reservation. No Child Left Behind is supposed to encompass all of the children. Doesn't cover children in urban areas; will be at a great disadvantage because they are on waiting list.
- *Joseph Pavel* – Head Start is a great program, do really well with the kids. Administratively – bureaucratic nightmare. No Head Start preschool resource available off the reservation. Own the building and an added on day care. My first exposure to this process/program. Had a career in natural resources. Legacy of my mother – education was always important to her.

- *Jeromy Sullivan*--- two kids who graduated from early childhood center. Place on his reservation. Appreciate that DEL is at the table with us; understand they are very young. Time to start to get to the table with the tribes in a government to government relationship. This is a second step; last year was a first step. Thanks.
- *Karen Condon* – New to these issues. Questions/Concerns: Tribe is divided into four districts. Limit/Minimum to Head Start in district need to be enrolled – discussion to eliminating Head Start. Head Start consultation in Seattle. A lot of concerns regarding lumping together tribal and migrant programs. Been approached by the Washington State Migrant Council to set up a Head Start on the reservation. Is this detrimental to Tribal Head Start programs and/or child care?
- *Dana Matthews* – Concerns with Head Start program. Match funding is difficult to come up with. Not everyone in tribe sees the importance of keeping Head Start program. Our Head Start is not on a reservation. Get extra support because we are all serving community
- *Laura Waukechon* – Director of Early Childhood Program. Head Start/ECEAP/Child care. Has a concern with Head Start and ECEAP combining – great extensive background in Head Start. Here to listen and bring back information to tribe and tribal council.
- *Marie Zackuse* – concern about merging ECEAP with Head Start. Tribe has a Montessori program and has been talking about merging Montessori with ECEAP. Vision is to have a huge early childhood center. Thank you for allowing time with us. Important to have formalized communication plan, so that we're all notified of changes in rules, regulations and policies. Locally in Snohomish County --- we weren't notified when there was a great program in Snohomish County. That is the type of communication that is really important to us. We want to be a part of those meetings - anything that can benefit our children and to help us provide for our children.
- *Jone Bosworth, DEL Director* shared some comments and provided background information on the Department of Early Learning.
 - Thank you for sharing concerns and great successes.
 - DEL was created on July 1, 2006, with 200 employees.
 - Mission: "Every day, we are honored to take action that inspires the world to discover, love and nurture the greatness in all children."
 - DEL has three regions in the state – northwest, southwest and east.
 - The following transferred to DEL from DSHS
 - 163 staff --- focused around state
 - 126 DEL staff in child care licensing
 - 170,000 child care slots that DEL licenses for minimum standards for health and safety
 - 60,000 children are accessing child care subsidies
 - 13 ECEAP staff came from Community Trade and Economic Development.
 - Focus/Purpose of DEL
 - Child Care Licensing
 - Setting policy for child care subsidies (DSHS is responsible for eligibility, authorizations and payment)

- ECEAP (launched in 1986, state funded pre-K) \$104 million investment. Expanded this last year, 8,200 children. 5% of children in ECEAP are identified as American Indian.
 - Parent support programs
 - Head Start is a federal program. DEL has the Head Start State Collaboration Office, which is a resource to work on collaboration.
 - DEL has a resolution with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Thrive by Five Washington --- not just about kids being ready --- but also, schools, communities, and families.
- Ideas
 - Working on getting communication out to tribes
 - Looking at social and emotional well-being in ECEAP
 - Getting a formal communication structure
- Comments from other attendees:
 - *Jackie Haight* – issue around Head Start and migrant/tribal programs. Not appropriate for tribes to be lumped into a state system for HS needs assessment --- need to consult with tribes. What does an assessment of tribes look like? Needs to be consultation before RFP/etc. comes out. State match came to us tribes to help us --- there could be some creativity if we get to consultation.
 - *Leslie Eastwood* – Really about the policy level that I want to talk about. First of all, hope that we are going to be clear that policy level decisions will be made with consultation with tribes. Requests for waivers will not be dismissed. Samish has a licensed child care that is not yet in trust. Best interest of a kindergartener to be in preschool classroom; however, the licensor said that was not allowed. That is an opportunity for consultation. I hope you don't expect that one native staff person in your program will speak for tribes. Only tribes will speak for tribes. Native children that we're not able to serve in our communities - 75% of native population does not live on our reservations. Referenced the WAC which states that if 5% of children that are native in child care there is the need to have a special curriculum – how is that being monitored and what are resources available? Are centers are being held accountable? Are the resources there to help support that or is this an unfunded mandate? Hoping that DEL is aware of that WAC and following it. RFPs for ECEAP expansion – were notices sent out to all tribes? This is an example --- of where consultation would come in handy. Would like to see this in a policy. When we're talking about school readiness – I'm hoping that DEL will be a strong and solid advocate for developmentally appropriate practices. Therapeutic Child Care --- did not get moved over to DEL. Unique opportunity for tribes to serve children who are at risk of abuse/neglect. DEL needs to do whatever they can to get control of this program.
 - *Suzi Wright*-- this meeting is about being out the table to discuss policy. Two laws – looking at HS/ECEAP alignment and Kindergarten Assessment --- we fought that. Tribes need to be at the table to decide what assessment is culturally relevant.
 - *Allison Cusick* – Has worked with Head Start, including tribal programs, for eight years and is excited about the opportunity to serve as the Tribal Liaison for DEL.
 - *Sonali Patel* – appreciate this opportunity to come together to build upon and continue the dialogue.

- *Annie Huntington-Kriska* – Skokomish Education Director. Small tribe – in survival mode all of the time. Making wise use of resources. Federal and state government that causes us to use most of our resources. Paperwork reduction act - Let us be concerned, let us be in control and not fill out 100's of pieces of paper. Administration versus services. I hope you take a look at the Head Start State Collaboration Office --- there is a lot in there...mandatorily we are required to push our teachers and our employees higher up on the career ladder, with no additional funding for mandates associated with staff education/training.
- *Lisa Horn* --- Thank you. Share all of the same concerns. Problems with subsidy programs – doesn't meet the costs; seasonal costs. Who wants to take on more policies with less funding (e.g. ECEAP). Transition and information regarding preschool to kindergarten. Expectations of schools/kindergarten.
- *Jeanne Dengate* --- in listening to everyone speak, the communication piece is so crucial. This has to be heard. It's very interesting to find out that there were additional funds for therapeutic child care. Need communication regarding this.
- Moving Forward with Centennial Accord Plan
 - *Leonard Forsman* – I just want whatever works. I don't think we need to start a new.
 - *Liz Mueller* – like to see the group develop a policy that reflects the consultation process that mirrors the 7.01. Advisory committee that works on a regular basis. Hire a Native American Administrator that works with DSHS and any other agencies serving early learning. Important investment that can meet with Jone and meet with tribes and get information out on a regular basis. Developing new committee and policies.
 - *Dana Matthews* – Not re-creating. Modifying what is there.
 - *Marie Zackuse* -- Not re-creating. Modifying what is there. Don't reinvent the wheel.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Afternoon Attendees

Jaclyn Haight, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
 Leslie Eastwood, Samish Indian Nation
 Suzi Wright, Tulalip Tribe
 Marci Maki, Snoqualmie Tribe
 Laura Waukechon, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
 Karen Condon, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
 Joseph Pavel, Chair, Skokomish Indian Tribe
 Lloyd Commander, Head Start Director, Chehalis
 Anna Huntington-Kriska, Skokomish Indian Tribe
 Lisa Horn, Suquamish Tribe
 Jeanne Dengate, Tulalip Tribe
 Tracey Hosselkus, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
 Lloyd Commander, Head Start Director, Chehalis
 Allison Cusick, DEL Partnerships Administrator and Tribal Liaison
 Sonali Patel, DEL Senior Policy Advisor

Next Steps

- 1) Recommendation to use DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01 Attachment 3 – Communication and Consultation Protocol (Interim Consultation Protocol)
 - a. If the entity or arm doesn't exist within DEL – the function will reside somewhere else
- 2) Share information on the role of the DEL tribal liaison
- 3) Tribes need to be at the table to write the plan for Kindergarten Assessment & WA Head Start Bill.
- 4) Current law will (Centennial Accord) be honored.
- 5) Need to define the term “consultation” with tribes.
- 6) Every Tribe needs to have the opportunity to participate in consultation. Letters need to address Tribal Leadership and copy the staff.
- 7) It was requested that DEL Tribal Liaison participates in various meetings including: IPAC, Tribal Leaders Congress, NIEA, ATNI.org (Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians, regional level), National Congress of Native American Indians, and ACF-CCDF meetings.
- 8) Idea presented to invite the historians back (e.g. Mary Jeffers Schroeder, ACF)
- 9) Next steps for Centennial Accord development:
 - a. Meet monthly for a certain period of time then go quarterly
 - b. Small tribal planning group to draft centennial accord – October 1 at Samish
 - c. October 29 at Suquamish. Larger meeting to include DEL to review draft and determine next steps.